

## Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W

----- 130741

R 260827Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2798

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5854

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS, MX

SUBJECT: RABBI HERSHBERG AND THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON PEACE AND  
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 5619, (B) TEL AVIV 5189, (C) RABAT 4064,,  
(D) MEXICO 9746, (E) TUNIS 5338, (F) CAIRO 11010

1. RELUCTANTLY, I MET WITH DR. ABRAHAM HERSHBERG  
AUGUST 84. RABBI HERSHBERG DESCRIBED  
HIS ACTIVITIES  
AS PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF PEACE  
AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND SAID HIS PURPOSE IN  
VISITING ISRAEL WAS TO GET THE AGREEMENT OF THE

GOI TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD CONFERENCE IN  
NOVEMBER. HE  
SAID HE WAS ENCOUNTERING A CONSIDER-  
ABLE LACK OF ENTHUSIASM IN ISRAEL FOR THE CONFERENCE.

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I SAID THE RABBI SHOULD KNOW THAT THE ISRAELI

REACTION REFLECTED THEIR DISENCHANTMENT WITH MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND THAT HE WAS UNLIKELY TO GET THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE CONFERENCE. I DECLINED HIS REQUEST THAT I SPEAK WITH ALLON OR RABNN ON THE SUBJECT.

2. RABBI HERSHBERG

REPEATED HIS CLAIM WHICH HE MADE TO CHARGE DUNNIGAN LAST MONTH (REFTEL B) THAT THE

CONFERENCE IS WARMLY ENDORSED BY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE SECRETARY. HE SAID ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON HAD SUGGESTED THAT HE STOP IN WASHINGTON ON HIS RETURN TO MEXICO TO DISCUSS THE CONFERENCE IN GREATER DETAIL. I RESPONDED THAT THIS WOULD GIVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASCERTAIN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT VIEW TOWARD THE CONFERENCE.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO DAOUDI'S REPORT TO AMBASSADOR MURPHY THAT HERSHBERG HAD NOT VISITED SYRIA, HERSHBERG HAD TOLD ME THAT NOT ONLY HAD HE VISITED SYRIA BUT HAD STAYED WITH PRESIDENT ASAD. THIS LEADS ME TO SUSPECT THAT HIS REPORTS OF MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENTS AND MINISTERS ARE HIGHLY EXAGGERATED; AND, AFTER MY BRIEF EXPOSURE TO HIM, I TEND TO AGREE WITH EMB MEXICO CITY'S ASSESSMENT THAT HE IS AN ECCENTRIC, AT BEST. TOON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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